

STUDENT LIFESTYLE INFORMATION

1. **AREA/NEWCOMER INFORMATION:** Maxwell AFB bills itself as the “Best Hometown in the Air Force”, and reflects the vibe of the friendly nearby city of Montgomery and towns of Prattville and Wetumpka. See the AWC website Family Program page <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/family.htm> for newcomers’ information and links
 2. **STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:** See [link](#) for an overview of the nations, career fields, military service, military component, and other demographics of the current AWC class. This will be fairly representative of what you should expect for your Class
 3. **SPOUSE/FAMILY PROGRAMS:** Historically, most spouses have elected to accompany their AWC students and join in their experiences. In the current class of 245 students, there were 205 married students, 144 accompanied by their spouse
- A. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** There are many opportunities for interested spouses to become involved in the Air War College experience! These include:
- i. *AWC Cookbook Committee*: Volunteers gather recipes from US and international students and spouses, and contract with a publisher to print a professional-quality cookbook representative of your Class’ activities, personality, and style. Cookbook sales are an AWC tradition, and contribute greatly to Class charitable donations to the community
 - ii. *AWC Alumni Association Gift Shop*: The “AWC Store,” located in the same hallway as all AWC seminar classrooms, is managed by spouse volunteers. Proceeds from its AWC-themed gifts and apparel support the AWC Alumni Association private organization, which donates funds throughout the year in support of Class events such as the Air Force Ball
 - iii. *International Dependents English Course (IDEC)*: Interested volunteers support the Spaatz Center’s International Officers School (IOS), to teach a six-week course to help the spouses and young-adult (post-high school) dependents of international AWC and ACSC students become more proficient in the English language and US customs and culture. No prior experience or language skills are required, although experience with TESOL/ESL, Foreign Language, or Teaching experience would be extremely useful to the program. IDEC teaching teams are comprised of an experienced lead teacher working with an assistant, from 0830-1200 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for six weeks in the early Fall. No children are allowed in the class. Please contact IOS at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/spaatz/ios/contact.htm> , for more information

- iv. *AWC Spouses Committee*: In recent years, Class volunteers have not chosen to establish a formal Class Spouses Committee or identify a Class “Senior Spouse.” However, interested spouses have volunteered to organize/lead events for fellow spouses/families such as local tours and social events or to volunteer in support of Class activities (Air Force Ball)
 - v. *Maxwell-Gunter Officers Spouses Club (MGOSC)*: The MGOSC is a group of active duty and retired military officers' spouses, international officers' spouses and spouses of civilian GS-7s and above. MGOSC offers its members many opportunities for social interaction with monthly programs and a variety of special activities. MGOSC supports our military & civilian communities through charitable donations/work. See <https://www.facebook.com/MGOSC> or <http://www.mgosc.info>
- B. AWC SPOUSE’S ORIENTATION:** AWC conducts an evening orientation program for the spouses of AWC students during the first week of class. Refreshments are provided and representatives from various on-base and off-base agencies are on-hand to provide information on services, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Spouses will be welcomed by the AWC Commandant and his staff, then will be escorted to Seminar Classrooms to have a chance to meet with the seminar teaching team and the other spouses in their seminar
- C. DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES (DLS):** Air War College invites senior civilians and general/flag officers from the US government and allied countries to address the Class on a wide array of topics. **Spouses are welcome to attend or watch these briefings!** In 2012, speakers included Major Command (MAJCOM) and Combatant Command (COCOM) commanders, and distinguished leaders such as retired Apollo 13 Astronaut (and retired US Navy CAPTAIN) Jim Lovell
- 3. STUDENT GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Each AWC Class of approximately 245 students is divided into 16 academic seminars comprised of 12-16 students
- A. HORIZONS ASSOCIATION:** The Horizons Association is the private student organization for each AWC Class. All current Air War College students and their spouses are members. Each Class updates the association constitution and bylaws to document organizational processes and manage and commit class funds on behalf of Horizons Association members
 - B. BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG):** The BOG is the governing body of the Horizons Association, comprised of the Class President, International President, Class Vice President, Class Secretary, Class Treasurer, the Senior Civilian student, the senior Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve students, and the senior

students from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The Class senior Chaplain and senior USAF Judge Advocate General officer serve as non-voting members to the BOG. These Class leaders represent all students and families, and interface regularly with the Air War College Commandant

- C. **FIRST 30:** The Air War College Commandant selects approximately 30 of the most senior inbound US Air Force students to attend a one-week leadership and orientation program prior to AWC class start. This group includes the most senior Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve students, and the senior JAG and Chaplain. From this group, the Commandant will select the Class President. The First 30 will then be joined by the senior civilian student and senior students from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, to establish the Class Vision, Mission, and Goals and team to set the “battle rhythm” for your Class and guide the Class through the upcoming school year. See [link](#)
 - D. **CLASS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** The Class President appoints the following Chairpersons from the First 30: Projects/Community Support; Social, Spouse Outreach; Air Force Ball; Alumni Reunion; Athletic; Yearbook; and Strategic Communication
 - E. **SEMINAR LEADERS:** Sixteen First 30 members will serve as Seminar Leaders (SLs). SLs are the student leaders within each seminar room, and liaison with (faculty) Seminar Directors, the AWC staff, and the Class BOG
 - F. **SEMINAR ADDITIONAL DUTIES:** Other students within each seminar will assist the SL in an additional duty capacity. These include seminar-level Social, Athletic, Yearbook, Administrative, Treasurer and Special Projects Officers who support the BOG and Class Chairpersons. Other roles include the Seminar Technology Officer, the US Security Officer, & Seminar Spouse Outreach Officer
4. **CLASS EVENTS:** The following summarizes the traditional student-led Class events which your Class is expected to execute during your Air War College experience. One or more seminars are designated to “lead” and execute specific events, working the details on behalf of the Class and seeking additional Class support if needed
- A. **CLASS MOVE-IN, HOLIDAY, AND GRADUATION PARTIES:** The Class Social Lead and designated seminars will organize these student-focused family events
 - B. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS:** The Class Projects Chairperson will organize Class support of selected community activities such as the Combined Federal Campaign and Air Force Aid federal fund-raising campaigns, River Region Dragon Boat race regional fundraisers, and other community service activities

- C. AWC ALUMNI REUNION:** The Class Reunion Chairperson and a designated seminar executes a reunion event held in conjunction with the Air Force Ball in mid-September. Another designated seminar will plan and coordinate events during the early Spring, to be executed by the following year's Class
- D. AIR FORCE BALL:** The Class Air Force Ball Lead and designated seminars execute a community Air Force Ball heritage event supporting their Class, Air University, Maxwell AFB and the surrounding community. The 2012 event was held downtown and attended by 720 students, spouses, and guests from as far away as Birmingham AL! Two other designated seminars take the lead in the Spring to plan/coordinate the next year's Air Force Ball for the following year's Class
- E. TASTE OF AMERICA (TOA) AND TASTE OF THE WORLD (TOW) CULTURAL FESTIVALS:** The Class Social Lead and US students in the designated seminars organize a Class TOA event in late October to introduce their International student classmates and their families to the diversity of US food and culture. US students, and volunteer family members home-cook US meals and staff tables representing the cultures of different US regions (ex: Midwest or Rocky Mountain states) and nationwide cultural enigmas such as "tailgating"
- In the Spring, the AWC International President and International Students and families conduct an associated TOW event for their US classmates and families. In this case, all AWC International students participate to highlight the food and culture of their 40+ foreign nations
- F. CLASS YEARBOOK:** The Class Yearbook Chairperson and Seminar Yearbook Officers contract for an annual Class yearbook offered to all Class members. This includes official and unofficial photos and descriptions documenting academic, social, and personal highlights during the academic year
- G. MENTORING PROGRAMS:** AWC students routinely volunteer to provide Senior Officer Perspectives to military members and to mentor younger civilian leaders in the Maxwell-Gunter area. These unscripted, voluntary, opportunities are de-conflicted with the AWC academic schedule, with volunteer participation coordinated by POCs designated by the AWC Class President. Activities include:
- Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training (CALT): AWC volunteer civilian students mentor new Air Force civilian employees to prepare them for future supervisory, management, and leadership positions
 - Barnes Center for Enlisted Education: AWC volunteer military students mentor USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officers (E-7/E-8) who are

learning to become First Sergeants, providing senior officer perspective on First Sergeant expectations and commander/1st Sgt working relations

- *Squadron Officer School (SOS)*: AWC volunteer military and civilian students spend an afternoon with a class of 10-12 USAF Captains (O-3) preparing to graduate from SOS, providing senior officer perspective and addressing queries on leadership, discipline, and motivation

H. SECAF NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM: Each Spring, AWC hosts the Secretary of the Air Force's National Security Forum (NSF), to expose influential citizens to senior U.S. and international officers and senior civilian leaders, and engage in a dialogue to better understand each other's ideas and perspectives on Air Force, national and international security issues. It's an opportunity for AWC students, as our future military leaders, to interact with a broad cross-section of civilian leaders from businesses, universities, industry, media, law, the clergy, and state and local governments. The guests are hosted by AWC students, and spend spending several days in-seminar engaging directly with seminar members and faculty. See <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/nsf/index.htm> for more details

5. ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT: Also see <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/curriculum.htm>

- A. ACADEMIC SEMINARS:** The basis for learning at AWC is seminar teaching, where small groups of diverse students challenge each other to defend and support their positions, under the guidance of an assigned faculty member. AWC has 16 seminars, which function similar to "homerooms," each comprised from as diverse a mixture of career fields and experiences as possible. A designated faculty Seminar Director (SD) leads other faculty members who comprise a seminar teaching team for the year. The SD is the student's day to day "commander" or supervisor, who monitors student academic progress, provides counseling, approves student absences, and guides the students and seminars to execute their academic and project expectations
- B. DUTY HOURS:** The academic duty day for all students includes time reserved for personal student fitness, from 0700-0830 daily. Academic events begin at 0830 daily, typically via a 90 minute mass-briefing to all students from faculty or distinguished guests associated with assigned readings. Following a break, academics will resume within seminars, where the faculty teaching team leads seminar discussions which address the mass-briefing, assigned reading materials, and the experiences and perspectives of seminar students. On some days, there will be no subsequent classroom activities. On other days, student electives, optional language classes, guest speakers, etc may extend class activities as late as 1700 (5pm)

- C. PROFESSIONAL STUDIES DAYS:** Specific dates are designated “Professional Studies Days” on the academic calendar. “PS Days” are intended to allow the students personal time outside of the classroom to reflect and prepare for upcoming academic requirements
- D. REGIONAL & CULTURAL STUDIES (RCS) FIELD STUDY:** All AWC students will participate in a focused academic program in the Spring semester to become more familiar with the history and culture of a specific region of the world (examples: Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Northeast Asia). RCS studies culminate with a visit to the region, to meet and interact with senior military and government leaders of the nations under study. RCS field trips are official business (family members are not allowed)
- International Student RCS studies focus on US history and culture, travel to several US cities and interact with senior US military & federal/state leaders
- E. PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PAPER:** All US students and those International students who desire an AWC Masters Degree must successfully author a Professional Studies Paper (PSP). The purpose of the PSP is for students to conduct research and analysis on an issue of interest to the USAF or Department of Defense, and to produce a paper of 4,000 to 5,000 words (excluding endnotes) suitable for publication in a professional journal or periodical
- D. SEMINAR ROOM AND FACILITY INFORMATION:** Each seminar room includes desks with dedicated electrical and internet hookup, a “college” size refrigerator, small microwave, and coffee maker. The AWC facility contains a contracted snack-bar. Parking is located a few hundred feet from the facility. Students may access the facility after-hours or on weekends via their CAC identification cards, which are also required to access government computers

6. LEAVE/PASS AND TRAVEL PLANNING:

- A. LEAVE:** Coordinate leave plans with your current chain of command. **AWC will NOT authorize routine leave to students during academic duty days between in-processing and graduation.** Take sufficient leave before arrival to ensure that you do not arrive at AWC with excess leave (use or lose). Students will be authorized unrestricted leave during a two-week holiday break in December
- B. PASS:** Students are typically on pass from the end of scheduled academic events on Friday until 0830 Monday (or 0830 Tuesday if Monday was a US national holiday). Students who remain in the local area during the scheduled December holiday break will not be charged leave

- C. TRAVEL PLANNING:** AWC students should not make personal travel plans between in-processing and graduation which would result in missing any scheduled academic event. Your mission during the AWC academic year is to attend and participate in scheduled class activities

7. UNIFORMS/ATTIRE:

- A. MON-FRI:** Utility uniform
 - i. Military: Utility/ABU or Flight Suit
 - ii. Male Civilians: Open collar shirt and slacks/khakis
 - iii. Female Civilians: Blouse & slacks/skirt
- B.** Bring Class B (Short Sleeve blue Shirt) to facilitate a limited number of official functions held off-base, where utility uniform would not be appropriate
- C.** Bring Class A/Service Dress (Civilians: Suit/tie or dress) to facilitate official photos and a limited number of mandatory formal academic events
- D.** Bring Mess Dress (Civilians: Tuxedo/suit or cocktail dress) to facilitate attendance at the Class-led Air Force Ball and Marine Corps Ball, and a limited number of Air University or formal community social events